

Weekly Update – March 27, 2023

ns Endin	ng 3/24/	2023
1 Week	YTD	1 Year
<u>US</u>		
1.4%	3.8%	-9.5%
0.8%	4.2%	-12.0%
0.8%	-3.5%	-12.7%
0.5%	-1.2%	-15.6%
ernation	<u>al</u>	
3.3%	6.2%	-1.5%
2.8%	2.6%	-10.0%
<u>Bonds</u>		
0.5%	3.4%	-5.2%
0.7%	2.1%	-4.4%
	1 Week <u>US</u> 1.4% 0.8% 0.5% ernation 3.3% 2.8% Bonds 0.5%	1.4% 3.8% 0.8% 4.2% 0.8% -3.5% 0.5% -1.2% ernational 3.3% 6.2% 2.8% 2.6% Bonds -3.4%

US Equity Style Returns				
Weekly				
	Value	Core	Growth	
Large	1.0	1.3	1.6	
Mid	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Small	0.3	0.5	0.7	
	Value	<u>YTD</u> Core	Growth	
Largo	-3.0	3.6	10.7	
Large	-3.0	3.0	10.7	
Mid	-3.5	-0.8	4.2	
Small	-4.2	-1.2	1.7	
Source: Bloomberg				

Key Events: We're from the government, and we're here to help

It wasn't a great week for government communications:

While The Federal Reserve Raised rates 0.25%, chairman Powell assured us that bank deposits were safe.

- Secretary Yellen was less enthusiastic. (see chart below)
- Chinese-owned TikTok attempted to reassure congress that the CCP was not accessing US user's data.
- Chancellor Scholz reiterated that Deutsch bank, and the European banking system, were sound after shares tumbled.

Fed Chair Powell was somewhat clearer in signaling one more rate hike this year, as the banking crisis and credit crunch are likely to reduce future inflation and increase odds of a recession.

Market Review: Looking forward

While it is easy to make fun of Mr. Powell and Ms. Yellen's communication foibles, the market sorted it out.

The S&P 500 gained 1.4% for the week while smaller-cap stocks and bonds finished with slight gains.

International stocks were the winner for the week: Developed stocks were up 3.3% and emerging markets up 2.8%.

Outlook: "Long and Variable Lag"

Monetary policy is a fairly blunt tool, described as having a long and variable lag before it takes effect; it's an imperfect science. Here's what's

important for the markets after this Fed Meeting:

- It's not very easy to say exactly how much of the Fed's work is being done by how much inflation will come down due to the banking crisis. It is very easy to be wrong.
- The Fed wants to make a decision that would be easier to fix if it were to go wrong and won't have huge negative consequences.
- > That means raising rates higher, keeping them there longer, and lowering them more slowly.

However, none of this would be possible if the banking system was not stable. It is stable.

Additionally, the US Government has shown a willingness to take the steps needed to protect the banking system, and there is no reason to expect that would change, There are legitimate things to be worried about, and we account for that in our portfolios. The market may climb this wall of worry – as it often does – rewarding investors who stay the course.

We're from the Government, we're here to help

"we're prepared to use those tools. I think depositors should assume that their deposits are safe" - Jerome Powell (Wednesday)

"This is not something we have looked at, it's not something that we're considering" - Janet Yellen (Wednesday)

"Certainly, we would be prepared to take additional actions if warranted" - Janet Yellen (Thursday)

VALUATION

- Stock valuations remain in the neutral zone after February's pullback amidst declining earnings.
 High-quality bonds are attractive, while high yield spreads have decreased despite recession fears
- US large cap stocks are more expensive than International or Small Caps.

SENTIMENT

- Bearish investor sentiment was above average for almost all 2022 and remains high.
- The University of Michigan and Conference Board surveys of Consumer Sentiment have recovered from their recent lows.
- Negative investor sentiment paired with low but recovering consumer sentiment measures render overall view of Sentiment as positive.

NEGATIVE

SLIGHTLY NEGATIVE

ECONOMY

- The Federal Reserve has indicated rates are likely to stay higher for longer.
- Manufacturing and services indicators have bounced significantly during February, indicating higher potential of a soft landing. Margin pressures are causing analysts to cut earnings estimates for 2023.

TECHNICAL

- Short-term technical indicators are neutral following February's pullback
- Medium and long-term such as breadth are mixed for most markets, while 2022 trendlines and moving averages have become levels of support as markets have traded above them
- Near-term volatility is likely to continue as the market discounts economic uncertainty.

Navigator Outlook: March 2023

NEUTRAL

SLIGHTLY

POSITIVE

POSITIVE

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